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birth, and one person in every 38 of the congenitally deaf population was a child of deaf-mute parents. Prof. Bell makes many suggestions for the securing of a more accurate census in 1890, and the conclusion of his report states that, in examining the ancestry of deaf-mutes, he has had occasion to consult the original population schedules of former censuses, which are preserved in the Department of the Interior; and he has found little difficulty in tracing the families backward from census to census in the male line of ascent. If the name of the father had been given in former censuses, it might now be possible for genealogical experts to trace from these records the American ancestry of every person now living in the United States in every branch, for the name of the father would give the maiden name of females. He therefore suggests that in the census of 1890 the father's name should be noted in that part of the schedule that relates to the nativity of the parents, so that the people of the United States may leave to their descendants genealogical records from which their full ancestry may at any future time be ascertained.

THE EXTENSION OF THE METRIC SYSTEM.

The question whether the employment of the Metric System is growing or not was recently discussed in a note presented to the Academie des Sciences, by M. de Malace. An abstract of this appears in *l'Economiste Français*, Feb. 23, 1889.

M. de Malace begins by stating that, in 1887, the states where the decimal metric system is obligatory comprise a population of 302 millions inhabitants,—an increase of 53 millions since 1877. The states where the metric system is authorized by law as optional (England, certain British colonies, Canada, the United States) comprise 96.9 millions of inhabitants, an increase of 19 millions since 1877; and the states where the metric system is legally admitted in principle, or partially applied, as in the customs (Russia, Turkey, British India), comprise a population of 395 millions, an increase of 54 millions since 1877.

The metric system is thus legally recognized throughout the civilized world by 794 millions of people, an increase of 126 millions since 1877. These 794 millions represent 60.6 per cent of the population of the civilized world,—that is to say, of countries which have a census or an official enumeration of the population. These latter

contain 1311 millions. China, Japan, and Mexico have different systems, decimal but not metric. They represent a population of 474 millions. The other civilized nations not comprised in the figures given above have neither the decimal nor the metric system; they represent but a slight fraction of the civilized world,—less than 43 millions.

If we pass to the examination of monetary systems, it will be noticed that the five states that formed the monetary union of 1865 (France and her colonies, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland, and Greece) comprise a population of 111 millions. Four states (Austro-Hungary, since 1870; Monaco, 1879; Finland, 1878; Russia, 1887) coined certain pieces in conformity with the French system, which are receivable, according to a decision of the French government, at her public banks, and, in consequence, are legal tender in France. These states represent a population of 144 millions.

Four states in Europe (Roumania, 1867; Spain, 1868; Servia, 1873; and Bulgaria, 1877), one state in Africa (Congo 1877), one state in Asia (Persia), and nine states in America (the Argentine Republic, Bolivia, Chili, Columbia, Hayti, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela), have also coined money according to the French system; and these represent a population of 56 millions. The total population, therefore, of the states which have coined money similar to the French system comprise 311 millions as against 162 millions in 1877; these 311 millions equal 23.7 per cent of the population of the civilized world.

Besides these states which tend to the French monetary system, and to an international circulation, there are certain notable exceptions, as, for example, England, Canada, Germany, the Netherlands, Scandinavian Union, Turkey, Morocco, Portugal, China, Siam, Japan, the United States, and Brazil.